MONTANA

1986
UPLAND GAME BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to shoot any game bird on, from, or across any public highway, or the shoulder, berm, or borrow-pit, or right-of-way of any public highway in the State of Montana and from an automobile or other self-propelled vehicle.

CHECKING STATIONS

All hunters (both successful and unsuccessful) are required by law to stop at Fish, Wildlife and Parks checking stations on their routes of travel to and from hunting and fishing areas. Vital hunting and harvest information is gathered at checking stations.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset during open seasons. Sunrise-sunset times shall be in conformance with sunrise-sunset schedules by zones adopted by the Montana Fish and Game Commission.

WASTING WILDLIFE

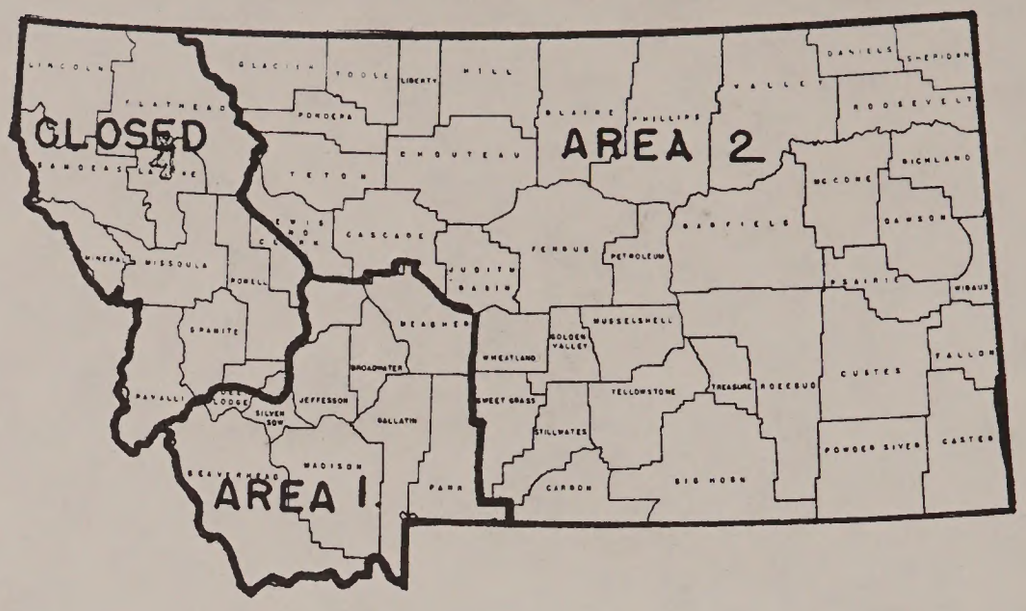
It is unlawful to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are game bird parts "suitable for food."

All birds that fall into the size category of the partridge or smaller, only the breasts must be retained.

All birds larger than a partridge up to the size category of pheasants and sage grouse, the breasts and the thighs must be retained.

All birds larger than pheasants or sage grouse, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

SAGE & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE



AREA 1

That part of Montana lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Continental Divide and the Montana-Idaho border at Lost Trail Pass (on Montana Highway 43), then north-easterly along the Continental Divide to the headwaters of Lyons Creek in T15N-R6W, then southeasterly down the north fork and main Lyons Creek and Little Prickly Pear Creek to the Missouri River, then up river to Beaver Creek, then easterly up Beaver Creek to the Meagher County line, then northerly, easterly and southerly along the Meagher County line to the Park County line, then southerly along the east boundary of the Park County line to the Wyoming border, then westerly and northerly along the Montana-Wyoming and Montana-Idaho borders to the point of beginning.

AREA 2

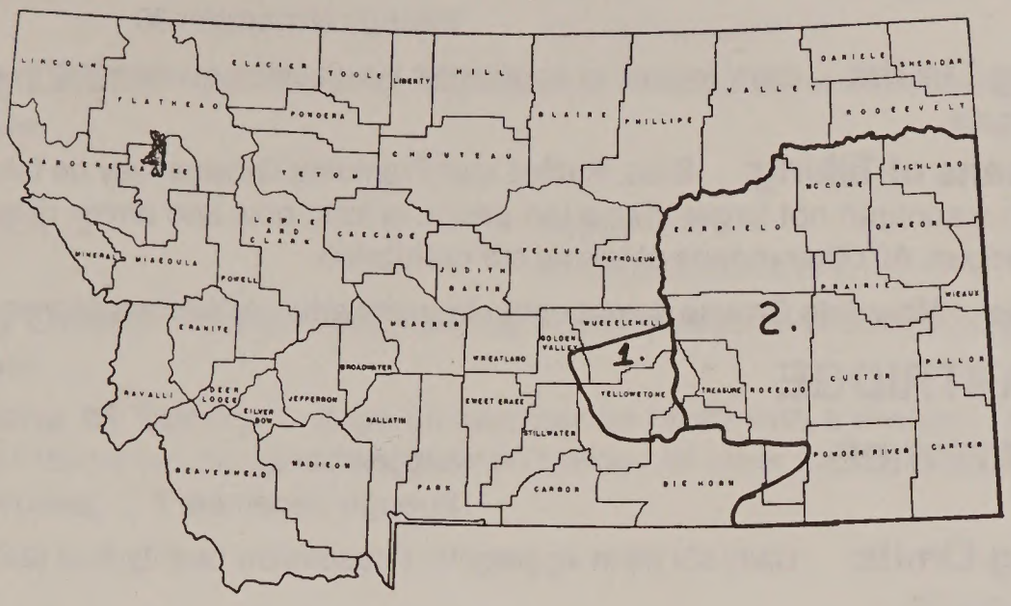
That part of Montana lying east and north of the following boundary: Beginning at the Continental Divide and the U.S.-Canadian border, then south along the Divide to the headwaters of Lyons Creek in T15N-R6W, then down the north fork and main Lyons Creek and Little Prickly Pear Creek, to the Missouri River, then up river to Beaver Creek, then easterly up Beaver Creek to the Meagher County line, then northerly, easterly and southerly along the Meagher County line to the Park County line, then southerly along the east boundary of the Park County line to the Montana-Wyoming border, then east, north and west along the Montana-Wyoming, Montana-South Dakota, Montana-North Dakota and Montana-Canadian borders to the Continental Divide, the point of beginning.

CLOSED AREA

That part of Montana lying west of the Continental Divide.

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS: TURN IN POACHERS
1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MERRIAM'S WILD TURKEY — FALL



Limit: One wild turkey per fall license holder during fall season.

Tagging: Immediately after killing your wild turkey, cut out the proper month and day from the license (if more than one date is cut or marked, the license is invalid) and affix to the leg of the wild turkey.

Means of Taking: Wild turkey may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge, long bow and arrow, rifle or handgun.

AREA 1

October 26
through November 30
September 6 through
October 25 **Archery only**

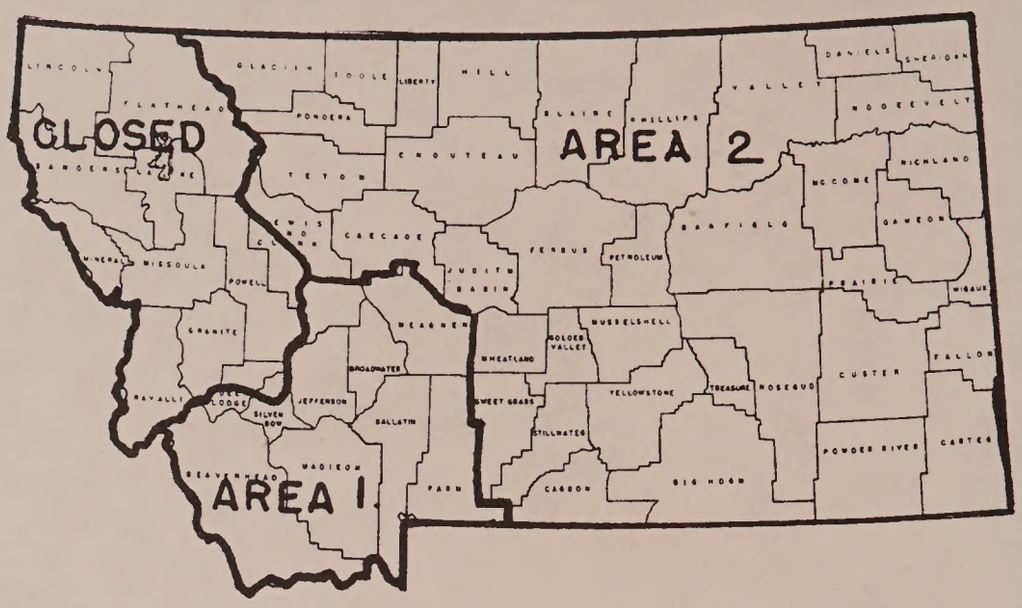
Those portions of Musselshell, Big Horn, Yellowstone and Golden Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Billings, then northwesterly along State Route 3 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12 north of Lavina, then east and northeasterly along U.S. Highway 12 to Melstone, then south and southeasterly along the Melstone-Custer Road to the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer, then easterly down the Yellowstone River to the Bighorn River, then southerly up the Bighorn River to U.S. Highway 87 at Hardin, then west and northwesterly from Hardin along U.S. Highway 87 to Billings, the point of beginning.

AREA 2

September 6
through November 30

Those portions of Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Wibaux and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the Yellowstone River Bridge north of Custer, then north on the Custer-Melstone Road to U.S. Highway 12 at Melstone, then east on U.S. Highway 12 to the Musselshell River Bridge, then north down the Musselshell River to Fort Peck Reservoir and the Missouri River, then easterly down Missouri River to Montana-North Dakota state line, then south along the North Dakota-South Dakota-Montana state line to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west on the Montana-Wyoming state line to the Crow Indian Reservation boundary, then north along the Crow Indian Reservation boundary to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation boundary then easterly, northerly and westerly along the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation boundary to the Crow Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along the Crow Indian Reservation boundary to the Bighorn River, then north down the Bighorn River to the Yellowstone River, then west up the Yellowstone River to the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer, the point of beginning.

SAGE & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE



AREA 1

That part of Montana lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Continental Divide and the Montana-Idaho border at Lost Trail Pass (on Montana Highway 43), then north-easterly along the Continental Divide to the headwaters of Lyons Creek in T15N-R6W, then southeasterly down the north fork and main Lyons Creek and Little Prickly Pear Creek to the Missouri River, then up river to Beaver Creek, then easterly up Beaver Creek to the Meagher County line, then northerly, easterly and southerly along the Meagher County line to the Park County line, then southerly along the east boundary of the Park County line to the Wyoming border, then westerly and northerly along the Montana-Wyoming and Montana-Idaho borders to the point of beginning.

AREA 2

That part of Montana lying east and north of the following boundary: Beginning at the Continental Divide and the U.S.-Canadian border, then south along the Divide to the headwaters of Lyons Creek in T15N-R6W, then down the north fork and main Lyons Creek and Little Prickly Pear Creek, to the Missouri River, then up river to Beaver Creek, then easterly up Beaver Creek to the Meagher County line, then northerly, easterly and southerly along the Meagher County line to the Park County line, then southerly along the east boundary of the Park County line to the Montana-Wyoming border, then east, north and west along the Montana-Wyoming, Montana-South Dakota, Montana-North Dakota and Montana-Canadian borders to the Continental Divide, the point of beginning.

CLOSED AREA

That part of Montana lying west of the Continental Divide.

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS: TURN IN POACHERS
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8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAGE GROUSE

AREA 1 — September 6 through October 19

Bag Limits: Daily three (3) sage grouse; Possession twelve (12) sage grouse.

AREA 2 — September 6 through December 7

Bag Limits: Daily three (3) sage grouse; Possession twelve (12) sage grouse.

Means of Taking: Sage grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking prohibited.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

AREA 1 — September 6 through October 19

Bag Limits: Daily three (3) sharp-tailed grouse; Possession twelve (12) sharp-tailed grouse.

AREA 2 — September 6 through December 7

Bag Limits: Daily three (3) sharp-tailed grouse; Possession twelve (12) sharp-tailed grouse.

Means of Taking: Sharp-tailed grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking prohibited.

MOURNING DOVES

STATEWIDE — September 6 through October 12

Bag Limits: Daily fifteen (15) mourning doves; Possession thirty (30) mourning doves.

Shooting Hours: Shooting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during open seasons.

Means of Taking: Doves may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge, capable of holding not more than three shells, or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking prohibited.

It is illegal to hunt by the use of baiting.

It is illegal to shoot doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.

A Federal Migratory Bird Stamp is not required. For a complete synopsis of regulations pertaining to migratory game birds contact any Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office or the Helena office (available in late August).

MOUNTAIN GROUSE

STATEWIDE — September 6 through November 30

Bag Limits: Daily four (4) in aggregate; Possession sixteen (16) in aggregate.

Means of Taking: Blue, Ruffed and Franklin's Grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow, rifle or handgun. All other means of taking are prohibited.

Note: Mountain Grouse do not occur in many areas of eastern Montana.

PARTRIDGE

STATEWIDE — September 6 through December 7

Bag Limits: Daily six (6) in aggregate; Possession twenty-four (24) in aggregate.

Exception—Closed Area: Those portions of Beaverhead and Madison Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Dillon, then northerly along State Route 41 to State Route 287 and its junction with the High Road (Twin Bridges - Melrose gravel road) at Twin Bridges, then westerly along the High Road to its junction with Interstate 15 near Melrose, then southerly along Interstate 15 to Dillon, the point of beginning.

Ravalli County remains closed to the hunting of Partridge.

Means of Taking: Partridge may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

STATEWIDE — October 18 through December 7

Bag Limits: Daily three (3) cock pheasants; Possession twelve (12) cock pheasants.

Means of Taking: Pheasants may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

Transporting Pheasants: No person shall transport within the state any pheasant unless one leg remains attached to each bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal residence of the processor or a bird processing facility.

To minimize consumption of potential pesticide residues in upland game birds, following are recommendations for cooking upland game birds excepting mountain grouse. **1)** Trim all fat and discard the skin and internal organs. These items should be discarded in a manner which will assure that they cannot be consumed by humans or domestic or wild animals. **2)** Fully cook the skinned bird on a rack and discard the drippings in the same manner as fat, skin and organs. **3)** Do not stuff birds. **4)** Women who are pregnant or suspect they are pregnant, and nursing women should not consume the named birds.

CLOSED AREAS

State Game Preserves, closures, and National Parks shall remain closed to hunting of upland game birds. For hunting privileges on Indian Reservations and Federal Wildlife Refuges, inquire at the local Indian Agency or Refuge office.

Flathead County: Closed to upland game bird hunting. Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, Section 24, T27N, R21W, approximately one-half (1/2) mile east of the town of Somers, then east-northeast along fence marking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the west half of Section 20, T27N, R20W, then south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, then south and westerly approximately one and three-quarters (1 3/4) miles as posted to a large stump displaying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign in the north half of the north half of Section 25, T27N, R32W, then northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning.

Freezout Game Management Area (Teton County): Open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting. SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Game Management Area, T22N, R4W.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis and Clark County): Open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting. The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Section 8, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley, as posted.

LICENSES REQUIRED

The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license agents throughout the state.

	Res.	Nonres.
Conservation (required prerequisite)	$2.00	$ 2.00
*Upland Game Bird (required prerequisite for Turkey) .	$4.00	$30.00
Fall Season Turkey	$3.00	$ 3.00

The resident sportsman's and the nonresident big game combination license include both the conservation and bird license.

*Montana residents 12-14 years of age and 62 and older need only the conservation license to hunt upland game birds, except wild turkey. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt upland game birds.

All hunters 12-17 years of age must show proof of successfully completing a state sponsored course in the safe handling of firearms prior to purchasing the hunting license.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks